



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: February 13, 2015 REPORT NO. 15-015

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee
Agenda of: February 25, 2015

SUBJECT: City of San Diego Crime Briefing
January – December 2014 Index Crimes

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes the January through December 2014 index crimes, as well as domestic violence cases, gang statistics, hate crimes, juvenile crimes and response times. Index crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. The Department of Justice Uniform Crime Reporting program collects information on these crime types from law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and uses the data to measure crime nationwide.

DISCUSSION

The total number of index crimes in San Diego decreased 13.5% in 2014 compared to 2013. The number of crimes in each of the categories in 2014 continues to be similar to the number of reported crimes from decades ago.

	Jan - Dec	Jan - Dec	% Change	(Rates per 1,000)		% Clearances	
	2013	2014		2013	2014	2013	2014
Murder	39	32	-17.9%	0.03	0.02	56.4%	75.0%
Rape	316	371	17.4%	0.24	0.28	34.5%	37.7%
Robbery	1,456	1,318	-9.5%	1.10	0.98	42.6%	39.5%
Aggravated Assault	3,492	3,493	0.0%	2.63	2.60	59.0%	60.8%
Violent Crimes	5,303	5,214	-1.7%	4.00	3.87	53.0%	53.9%
Burglary	6,355	5,115	-19.5%	4.79	3.80	13.8%	15.4%
Theft	19,230	16,691	-13.2%	14.50	12.40	16.1%	17.5%
Vehicle Theft	6,143	5,006	-18.5%	4.63	3.72	2.3%	2.0%
Property Crimes	31,728	26,812	-15.5%	23.92	19.92	13.0%	14.2%
TOTAL INDEX	37,031	32,026	-13.5%	27.92	23.80	18.7%	20.6%

Crime Rates

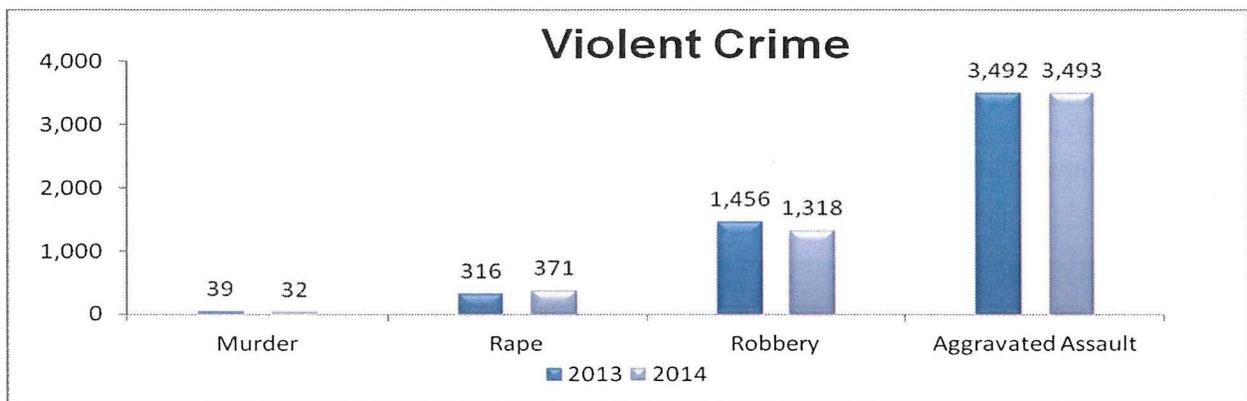
The violent crime rate of 3.9 per thousand residents in 2014 is comparable to rates in the early 1970s. The property crime rate of 20.0 per thousand and overall crime rate of 23.8 per thousand are comparable to rates in the late 1950s.

San Diego Crime Rates per 1,000 Population 2004 to 2014			
Year	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate	Total Index Crime Rate
2004	5.2	35.1	40.4
2005	5.1	35.4	40.5
2006	4.9	34.5	39.4
2007	4.7	33.0	37.8
2008	4.5	30.1	34.6
2009	4.4	23.8	28.2
2010	4.1	22.4	26.4
2011	3.9	22.7	26.5
2012	4.2	24.0	28.2
2013	4.0	23.9	27.9
2014	3.9	20.0	23.8

Violent Crimes

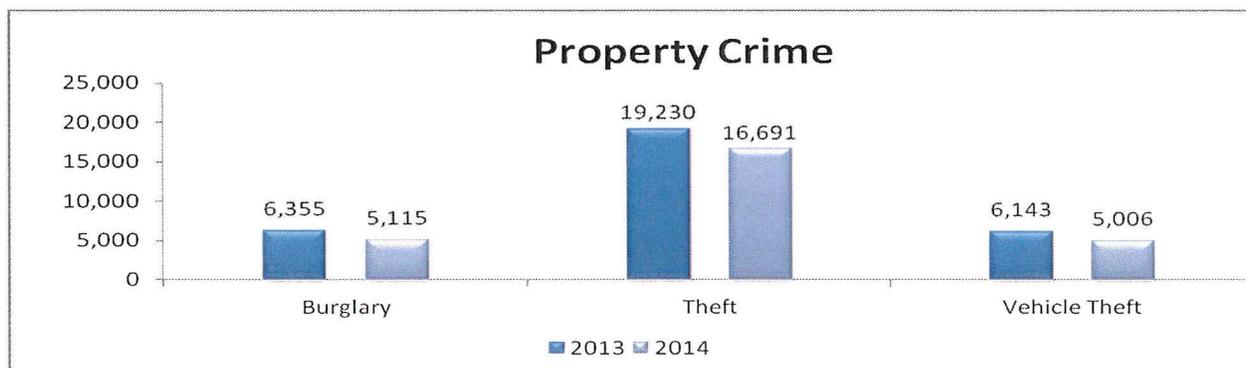
Violent crimes decreased 1.7% in 2014, when compared to 2013. Murders decreased 17.9%, from 39 cases in 2013 to 32 in 2014. Overall, robbery decreased 9.5% in 2014; approximately two-thirds of robberies are street robberies. Aggravated assaults remained constant in 2014. About 23% of aggravated assaults were related to domestic violence, similar to 26% domestic violence related cases in 2013. Assaults involving guns decreased by 10.3%, assaults involving other weapons increased by 12.6%, and aggravated assaults without a weapon decreased 16.9%.

Rape was the only violent crime that increased in 2014, from 316 cases to 371 cases. Many rape victims were young adults, with 21% of rape victims between the ages of 18-21 years of age. Alcohol continues to be a contributing factor in many of these incidents. Sex Crimes continue to be a high priority for investigators, and in 2014 two high profile cases were solved using DNA evidence. Both crimes, one in University City and the other in Golden Hill, were committed by strangers. All leads had been exhausted, until suspects were identified via DNA match. The suspects in these cases were each involved in other crimes, and are currently in custody, facing many years in prison.



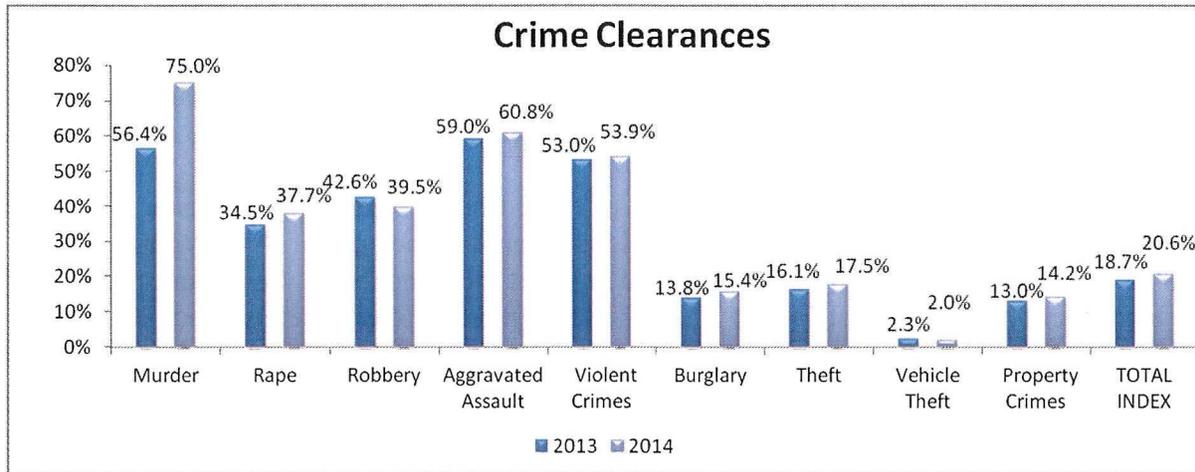
Property Crimes

Overall property crime dropped significantly in 2014, when compared to 2013. Burglary decreased by 19.5%, due to decreases in both residential and commercial burglary. Theft decreased by 13.2%, driven by a 21.5% drop in vehicle break-ins. Vehicle theft also decreased, by 18.5%, resulting in the fewest stolen vehicles since 1974, when there were 4,841 cases.



Crime Clearances

Overall, clearance rates in 2014 were similar to clearance rates in 2013.



Domestic Violence

The total number of domestic violence cases increased slightly in 2014. Incidents involving firearms and knives/cutting instruments decreased, while incidents involving other weapons or no weapon increased. The majority of domestic violence cases do not involve any type of weapon.

San Diego Domestic Violence January to December			
	2013	2014	13 to 14 % Change
Criminal Cases:			
Firearms	37	27	-27.0%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	199	186	-6.5%
Other Dangerous Weapon	828	839	1.3%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	5,068	5,194	2.5%
Total Criminal Cases	6,132	6,246	1.9%
Non-Criminal Calls:			
	1,093	1,131	3.5%
Total Cases	7,225	7,377	2.1%

Gang Crimes

Overall, the number of crimes committed by gang members decreased in 2014, by 7.9%. Assaults and attempted homicides remained constant. Shootings and stabbings each decreased by approximately 10%, while other assaults increased by 9%. Drive-by shootings decreased significantly, from 17 cases to 6 cases. Arrests of gang members decreased, by 13.8% in 2014.

San Diego Crimes Committed by Gang Members January to December			
Crime Type	2013	2014	13 to 14 % Change
All Crimes:			
Homicide	3	4	33.3%
Attempt Homicide	15	7	-53.3%
Assault	187	196	4.8%
Robbery	125	91	-27.2%
Auto Theft	76	75	-1.3%
Other	656	605	-7.8%
Total	1,062	978	-7.9%
Assaults & Attempt Homicides:			
Shooting	50	45	-10.0%
Stabbing	41	37	-9.8%
Other	111	121	9.0%
Total	202	203	0.5%
Drive-By Shootings	17	6	-64.7%
Arrests of Gang Members	3,476	2,998	-13.8%

Hate Crimes

There were 37 hate crimes in 2014, a decrease of 15.9% from 2013. Hate crimes based on ethnicity and sexual orientation each accounted for 45.9% of the cases, and religious bias accounted for the remaining 8.1% of hate crimes. Cases motivated by sexual orientation bias increased from 13 cases in 2013 to 17 cases in 2014, while cases based on ethnicity and religion both decreased.

San Diego Reported Hate Crimes January to December				
Hate Crimes	2013	% of Total	2014	% of Total
Ethnicity	22	50.0%	17	45.9%
Sexual Orientation	13	29.5%	17	45.9%
Religion	9	20.5%	3	8.1%
Gender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Disability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
			13 to 14 % Change	
Total Hate Crime	44		37	-15.9%

Juvenile Crimes

The number of juvenile victims of violent crime decreased slightly, by 2.2% from 2013 to 2014. There were fewer juvenile victims in each of the time categories. Incidents during after school hours accounted for 59.2% of all juvenile violent crimes.

Juvenile Statistics January to December			
Juvenile Victims of Violent Crimes:	2013	2014	13 to 14 % Change
Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)			
Murder	0	0	N/A
Rape	6	11	83.3%
Robbery	14	16	14.3%
Aggravated Assault	51	41	-19.6%
Daytime Total	71	68	-4.2%
After School Hours (1330 to 2159)			
Murder	0	0	N/A
Rape	21	29	38.1%
Robbery	85	71	-16.5%
Aggravated Assault	134	139	3.7%
After School Total	240	239	-0.4%
Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)			
Murder	0	1	N/A
Rape	25	21	-16.0%
Robbery	16	18	12.5%
Aggravated Assault	61	57	-6.6%
Curfew Total	102	97	-4.9%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	413	404	-2.2%

The enhanced curfew enforcement began on June 3, 1994.

Daytime Loitering enforcement began in June 1996.

Juvenile Arrests

Although total juvenile arrests show an increase of 16.5%, it is likely at least some of the increase is due to historical records being added to the database in 2014.

Juvenile Statistics January to December			
Juvenile Arrests:	2013	2014	13 to 14 % Change
Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)			
Felony	305	339	11.1%
Misdemeanor	1,238	1,211	-2.2%
Other	12	17	41.7%
Daytime Total	1,555	1,567	0.8%
After School Hours (1330 to 2159)			
Felony	336	537	59.8%
Misdemeanor	765	900	17.6%
Other	6	6	0.0%
After School Total	1,107	1,443	30.4%
Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)			
Felony	154	205	33.1%
Misdemeanor	411	558	35.8%
Other	951	1,095	15.1%
Curfew Total	1,516	1,858	22.6%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	4,178	4,868	16.5%

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Daytime Loitering enforcement began in June 1996.

Response Times

San Diego Police Department dispatches incoming calls according to a hierarchy of call types as defined below.

Priority E: Imminent threat to life, dispatch immediately.

Priority 1: Threat to life, serious crime in progress, dispatch immediately.

Priority 2: Threat to life has passed or does not exist, minor crime in progress/serious crime where suspect has left scene, dispatch as quickly as possible.

Priority 3: Non-urgent requests for service such as noise only loud parties, report only calls, and crime scene follow-up, dispatch as soon as possible after higher priority calls.

Priority 4: Minor requests for service such as found property, most parking violations, etc., dispatch when there are no higher priority calls awaiting assignment in the beat.

Response times to all priority calls increased in 2014, when compared to 2013. Priority E and 4 calls had the smallest increases, with 3.0% and 2.4%, respectively.

Average Response Times by Priority January to December			
Priority	2013	2014	% Change
E	6.6	6.8	3.0%
1	11.7	12.5	6.8%
2	27.4	29.2	6.6%
3	68.9	73.5	6.7%
4	70.9	72.6	2.4%

The total number of dispatched calls remained relatively constant in 2014, with a decrease of 0.2% when compared to 2013. Priority E and 4 calls each increased considerably, while priority 1, 2 and 3 calls each decreased slightly.

Dispatched Calls by Priority January to December			
Priority	2013	2014	% Change
E	27,062	31,131	15.0%
1	216,394	213,471	-1.4%
2	234,945	230,671	-1.8%
3	75,313	74,924	-0.5%
4	21,709	26,480	22.0%
Total	575,423	576,677	0.2%

Highlights for 2014

In addition to the crime statistics presented in this report, the following information focuses on many of the highlights throughout the year from different units and divisions within the San Diego Police Department. These highlights include special projects and effective ways to combat crime within our City.

Crime Lab

Over the past year, the Laboratory conducted a research project to analyze if usable DNA profiles could be collected from fired cartridge cases. Historically, efforts by agencies to extract DNA from fired cartridge cases had been unsuccessful, so this type of analysis was not performed. After looking at hundreds of fired cartridge cases using new and improved collection and extraction techniques, it was found that useable DNA extraction is possible, and with sufficient quality to load into the national DNA database for possible suspect matches. To date, three homicides have been solved as a result of recovering and analyzing this DNA evidence. The study was submitted for publication in early November, 2014, and is anticipated to result in other labs to using this meaningful new tool to solve gun crimes.

Gangs

The Gang Unit has been working closely with Community Assistance Support Team (CAST) volunteers and the Compassion Project to address violent gang crime in the community. In an effort to prevent retaliation violence, CAST members are requested to speak with victims or the victims' family and friends following a gang-related shooting. To prevent gang crime and improve quality of life, the Gang Unit also provides CAST and Compassion Project members with information on violent crime hotspots within the City. Volunteers use this information to contact and share resources with at-risk residents, and to walk violence prone neighborhoods offering assistance and promoting peace. These police-community partnerships have led to a reduction in retaliatory violence related to gang murders and shootings over the last year, and the increased dialogue has promoted improved cooperation and collaboration between police and members of the community.

Human Trafficking

Human sex trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children continue to be an important community issue, and the Department is a recognized expert in leading prevention efforts in this area. As part of the FBI's Innocence Lost Task Force, detectives have provided training to law enforcement personnel, Child Welfare Services case workers, school administrators, counselors, nurses and various community groups. Also during 2014, the Department committed resources to the creation of the Violent Human Trafficking & Child Exploitation Task Force, an alliance including federal, state and local agencies.

ICAC

The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit has been integral in the filing of criminal charges in recent school related threats that resulted in school closures. Additionally, ICAC continues to work in a collaborative effort with interdisciplinary teams to identify and stop child pornography across the country.

HOT/PERT/SIP Programs

The Police Department continues to work with other City Departments, businesses and non-profits to deliver police services to the homeless that are compassionate and responsive to the community, as San Diego continues to set the standard for providing services to those who are most in need. The Department is involved with three outreach programs that address homelessness and those with mental health issues: the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT), and Serial Inebriate Program (SIP). These programs each continue to earn national acclaim and are replicated by other cities throughout the country.

The HOT team partners a San Diego Police Officer, PERT clinician and County Health and Human Services Specialist in outreach teams, working with other providers to place homeless persons into transitional shelters and then into more permanent housing. PERT partners mental health clinicians with police officers riding together on patrol and responding to calls involving mental health emergencies. SIP, jointly funded by the City and County, is collaboration between law enforcement, the City Attorney's Office, Superior Courts and County Behavioral Health, as well as community-based homeless support agencies and treatment providers. SIP officers continue to work with the City's Emergency Medical Services provider, Rural/Metro in identifying chronic abusers of these services and offering them the option of diversion into a treatment program instead of incarceration.

Sex Crimes

Between April and August 2014, six women were brutally attacked in the North Park area. The community was on high alert, businesses suffered, and residents and visitors feared for their safety. Additional patrols focused on the area, and investigators followed-up on all available leads and tips. Officers and investigators worked closely with business owners, residents, community based organizations, and the media on brainstorming ideas and providing educational sessions on safety. The close partnership and countless hours of dedication, by both the community and police, resulted in the arrest of the suspect.

Sex Registration

The San Diego Police Department's Sex Offender Registration Unit is responsible for over 1,800 sex registrants. In June 2014, with more than 120 registrants out of compliance due to late registration, and 43 registrants with extended periods of non-compliance or outstanding warrants, the Department initiated a more aggressive posture on non-compliance. As a result of these

efforts, the out of compliance rate dropped from 7% to less than 1% (over 120 cases to 15), the best rate in the county.

Central Division

Last summer, the San Diego Zoo garnered attention due to 30 car break-ins that had occurred in the Zoo parking lot. In response, officers, detectives and police volunteers conducted increased surveillance and additional patrols in the area. On September 25, officers arrested three suspects, after witnessing them tamper with two SUVs. Upon search of one of the suspect's homes, officers discovered 30 additional stolen bags and suitcases. The investigation resulted in the cancellation of more than 20 vehicle break-ins from the Zoo, Sea World and USS Midway parking lots.

Mid-City

During 2014, Mid-City officers proactively worked with the San Diego County Probation Department to address the impact Assembly Bill 109, Public Safety Realignment, has on the communities of Mid-City. During the project, Mid-City Division conducted 50 proactive sweeps, resulting in 197 contacts, including 80 felony arrests, 44 misdemeanor arrests, 487 field interviews, and the recovery of narcotics, a stolen vehicle, several weapons and various prescription medications. During one operation at a motel, officers encountered an elaborate counterfeit currency operation and two suspects who were wanted by the Secret Service for producing counterfeit currency.

Northeastern Division

A series of more than 30 bike thefts occurred that targeted expensive high-end road bikes, with a combined value of over \$100 thousand. The bicycles were generally stolen from garages left open by the resident. The suspects were identified when a witness saw the suspects taking two expensive bikes, and investigators were able to link the suspect to numerous thefts in multiple jurisdictions.

Southern Division

During the summer, there were 41 reported auto thefts near the Otay Mesa port of entry. Research indicated the presence of an international auto theft crew targeting the area. The suspect was identified and arrested—he is a career auto thief who steals cars from the U.S. and transports them into Mexico. Further investigation yielded evidence linking the suspect to the series of auto thefts in Otay Mesa, and other auto thefts near the San Ysidro port of entry.



Shelley Zimmerman
Chief of Police